

Thus we respectfully ask the Examiner to reconsider his objection to claim 1 in the light of the amendments and the comments made herein.

Claims 2 and 3 and 5-7 are all dependent on amended claim 1 and are patentable for the same reasons as given above.

Claim 2 has been amended consequential on the amendments to claim 1.

Claim 4 has been deleted consequential to the amendments made to claim 1.

Claims 5, 6 and 7 have been amended to delete "or set of rollers".

Claim 8 is newly submitted and includes the limitation where the first conveyor means is a nip between a first and a second roller and the second conveyor means is a nip between the second and a third roller and the flexible support means supports sheets resting against the second roller. This feature is now shown or suggested in either Takagaki or Ito.

Claim 9 is newly submitted and includes the limitation that the flexible member is mounted adjacently opening between the guide members. Neither Takagaki or Ito suggest a flexible member nor that any such member is mounted adjacent the opening between the guide member.

Claim 10 is newly submitted and is limited by the feature of the actuator member being mounted across the guide members to close the collating station. Again, neither Takagaki nor Ito disclose or suggest this feature.

The Examiner is respectfully asked to reconsider his objections and to allow this application to proceed to issue on the basis of the amended claims now submitted.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By *Paul P. Krus*
35,234

Registration No. _____

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, 2000

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
120 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60603
(312) 577-7000

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